

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: US-FRANCE BILATERAL ISSUES

REF: PARIS 12736, WEST/O'MELIA TELECON OF 4/19/78

1. RE REFTELECON, PLEASE INFORM JUDGE WEST OF USDEL TO BILATERAL CIVAIR TALKS THAT BOARD'S POSITION RE BLIND SECTOR EXCHANGE WITH FRENCH REMAINS UNCHANGED. THE BOARD REMAINS WILLING TO EXCHANGE GENEVA-NICE BLIND SECTOR FOR WASHINGTON-MEXICO CITY BLIND SECTOR BUT HAS NOT BEEN PRESENTED BY ITS STAFF WITH ISSUE OF OVERALL EXCHANGE OF BLIND SECTORS ON INTERMEDIATES AND BEYONDS.

2. REGARDING FRENCH INTEREST IN DISCUSSING TWA'S TRAFFIC BEYOND PARIS, WE REGRET THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO PROVIDE IN TIME FOR APRIL 24 DISCUSSIONS STATISTICS REQUESTED BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FRENCH AND THE EXPLANATIONS WHICH WOULD BE ESSENTIAL TO PLACE DATA IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE. FYI. ALTHOUGH DATA SHOWS SIGNIFICANT LOCAL TRAFFIC VOLUME ON BEYOND PARIS SEGMENTS, WE SUSPECT THAT MUCH OF THIS TRAFFIC IS TRANSITING PARIS FROM US AND SHOULD BE APPROPRIATELY CONSIDERED AS 3RD AND 4TH FREEDOM TRAFFIC BETWEEN US AND COUNTRIES OF FINAL DESTINATION. HOWEVER, EXTENSIVE

EXAMINATION OF DATA WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE IN ORDER
TO ESTABLISH ACTUAL FREEDOM COMPOSITION OF TRAFFIC AND
IDENTIFY ANY OTHER PERTINENT FACTORS WHICH WOULD
ACCOUNT FOR THE TRAFFIC VOLUMES. END FYI.

3. USDEL MAY WISH TO CONSIDER INDICATING TO FRENCH
THAT IF THEY ARE CONCERNED WITH TWA'S CAPACITY
ON BEYONDS, THEY SHOULD REGISTER SUCH CONCERN FIRST,
AND THEN BOTH SIDES COULD COMPILE APPROPRIATE STATISTICS
REGARDING THE AFFECTED SECTORS. CONSULTATIONS COULD
TAKE PLACE ON A POST HOC BASIS AFTER A SUITABLE
PERIOD OF DATA GATHERING, FOR EXAMPLE MAY 1-OCT. 31, 1978.

USDEL MAY FURTHER CONSIDER POINTING OUT THAT FRENCH
APPROVAL OF TWA'S MAY SCHEDULES SHOULD NOT DEPEND ON
AIRLINE'S PAST TRAFFIC. WE SHOULD AVOID BECOMING
INVOLVED IN WHAT WOULD AMOUNT TO A PRIORI CAPACITY
CONSULTATIONS.

4. REGARDING PAN AM CHANGE OF GAUGE ISSUE, DEPARTMENT AND
CAB AGREE THAT FRENCH DENIAL WOULD BE INCONSISTENT
WITH BILATERAL AGREEMENT AND COULD THEREFORE GIVE RISE
TO COUNTERACTION ON PART OF US. WE SUGGEST USDEL
NOT GO BEYOND SINGLE STATEMENT OF THIS SORT SINCE WE
HAVE NOT DEVELOPED A SPECIFIC POSITION ON ACTION THAT
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WE MIGHT TAKE. CHRISTOPHER

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